

Amendments to the Claims:

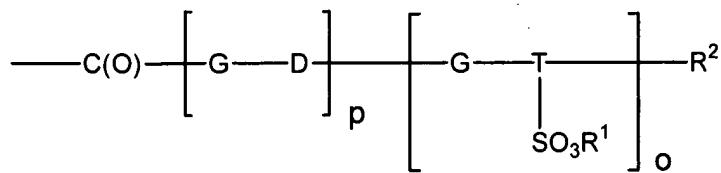
1. (Original) A comb polymer that is water-soluble, water-dispersible, or both, comprising a polymer main chain and polyester side-arms which contain sulfonic acid groups and which are linked to said polymer main chain via ester groups, wherein said side-arms have been at least partially neutralized by sodium and lithium cations, wherein the molar ratio of lithium to sodium is between 0.1 and 50.

2. (Original) The comb polymer according to Claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of lithium to sodium is between 0.5 and 25.

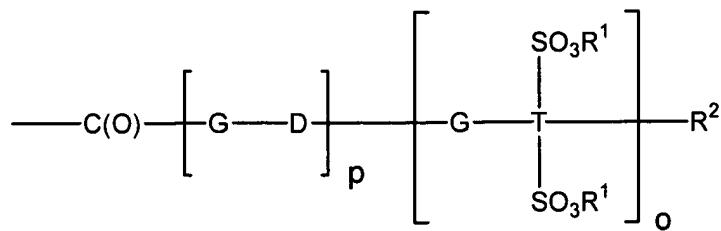
3. (Original) The comb polymer according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer main chain comprises at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, esters of polyacrylic acid, esters of polymethacrylic acid, polymaleic acid, polymaleic anhydride, and polyfumaric acid.

4. (Original) The comb polymer according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer main chain comprises at least one ester of polyacrylic acid or polymethacrylic acid with a C₁ to C₂₂ aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic alcohol.

5. (Original) The comb polymer according to Claim 1, wherein the polyester side-arms comprise at least one polyester selected from the group consisting of:

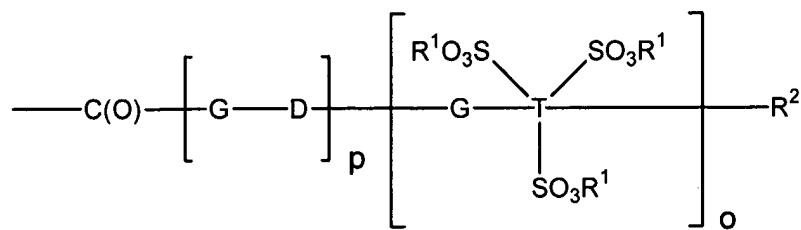


Formula I



Formula II

and

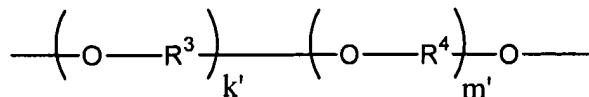


Formula III

wherein:

p and o represent the number of repeating monomer units;

G is selected from the group consisting of C_2 to C_{22} aromatic, aliphatic and cycloaliphatic organyl units containing at least two terminal oxygen atoms and derivatives of a polyglycol of the formula $\text{HO}-[\text{R}^3-\text{O}]_{\text{k}'}-[\text{R}^4-\text{O}]_{\text{m}'}-\text{H}$, corresponding to an organyl unit



wherein R^3 and R^4 are each C_2 - C_{22} alkylene radicals, and are the same or different and $\text{k}' + \text{m}' \geq 1$;

D is selected from the group consisting of C_2 to C_{22} aromatic, aliphatic and cycloaliphatic organyl units containing at least two terminal acyl groups;

T is selected from the group consisting of sulphonated aromatic, aliphatic and cycloaliphatic organyl radicals containing at least two terminal acyl groups;

at least some of said R^1 are lithium and sodium cations, and optionally at least some of

said R¹ are cations different from lithium and sodium cations; and

R² is selected from the group consisting of:

- aromatic, aliphatic and cycloaliphatic amino functional radicals including a -NH-R⁵ or -NR⁵₂ group, wherein R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of C₁ to C₂₂ alkyl and aryl radicals;

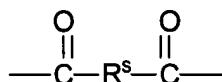
- aromatic, aliphatic and cycloaliphatic organyl radicals bridged via ether functions -O-R⁵, wherein R⁵ is the same as defined above;

- mono- or polyethoxylated sulphonated organyl radicals having the formula -(O-CH₂-CH₂)_s-SO₃R¹, wherein s ≥ 1; and

- polyalkoxy compounds bridged via ether functions of the formula -O-[R⁷-O]_q-[R⁸-O]_r-Y, wherein R⁷ and R⁸ are each independently selected from the group consisting of C₂ to C₂₂ alkyl radicals and are the same or different, Y is hydrogen or a C₁-C₂₂ aliphatic radical, and q+r ≥ 1.

6. (Original) The comb polymer according to Claim 5, wherein said one or more additional cations of R¹ are selected from the group consisting of potassium, magnesium, calcium, ammonium, monoalkylammonium, dialkylammonium, trialkylammonium and tetraalkylammonium, wherein the alkyl positions of the ammoniums, independently of one another, comprise a C₁ to C₂₂-alkyl radical and 0 to 3 hydroxyl groups.

7. (Original) The comb polymer according to Claim 5, wherein D comprises an organyl unit of the formula:



wherein R^s is a C₂ to C₂₂ aromatic, linear or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated, aliphatic bifunctional radical.

8. (New) The comb polymer according to Claim 7, wherein D is derived from a dicarboxylic acid monomer selected from the group consisting of phthalic acid, isophthalic acid, naphthalenedicarboxylic acid, cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, adipic acid, succinic acid, glutaric acid, pimelic acid, suberic acid, azelaic acid, sebatic acid, brassylic acid, and combinations thereof.

9. (New) The comb polymer according to Claim 1, wherein said polymer has a number average molecular weight from 200 to 2,000,000 g/mol.

10. (New) The comb polymer according to Claim 9, wherein said polymer has a number average molecular weight from 200 and 100,000 g/mol.

11. (New) The comb polymer according to Claim 10, wherein said polymer has a number average molecular weight from 1,000 to 30,000 g/mol.

12. (New) The comb polymer according to Claim 11, wherein said polymer has a number average molecular weight from 5,000 to 15,000 g/mol.

13. (New) The comb polymer according to Claim 5, wherein said polymer has a number average molecular weight from 200 to 2,000,000 g/mol.

14. (New) The comb polymer according to Claim 13, wherein said polymer has a number average molecular weight from 200 and 100,000 g/mol.

15. (New) The comb polymer according to Claim 14, wherein said polymer has a number average molecular weight from 1,000 to 30,000 g/mol.

16. (New) The comb polymer according to Claim 15, wherein said polymer has a number average molecular weight from 5,000 to 15,000 g/mol.

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17. (New) A cosmetic preparation comprising a comb polymer according to Claim 1 and one or more cosmetic auxiliaries.

18. (New) The cosmetic preparation according to Claim 17, wherein the cosmetic preparation is a hair-setting composition, a shampoo, or a lotion.

19. (New) The cosmetic preparation according to Claim 18, wherein the cosmetic preparation is a hair-setting composition in the form of a spray, foam aerosol, or gel.

20. (New) The cosmetic preparation according to Claim 19, wherein the comb polymer is present at a concentration of 0.5 to 30 weight percent.